

PARENT COVID COMMUNICATION UPDATE_July 7

Parents -

Summer is in full swing as July is underway! As we are looking forward to the start of another academic year next month, I wanted to share with you two items that may be helpful to you and your student as you begin to prepare for fall semester.

Students Requesting Accommodations

With the addition of a global COVID-19 pandemic to our environment, the institution has enacted several new health and safety protocols, such as completing portions of some on-campus classes remotely, adhering to social distancing requirements, taking daily symptom checks and required wearing of masks and face coverings in certain settings, including all classrooms and when social distancing is not possible. In addition, while everyone is at risk for getting COVID-19 if they are exposed to the virus, the guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) includes that some people are more likely than others to contract the virus. You can review the list of underlying medical conditions outlined by the CDC [here](#).

These new COVID-19 health and safety protocols at Lipscomb University as well as the CDC guidance regarding people who are at increased risk for COVID-19 complications may present additional accommodation requests for some students who would not in other times need them. Lipscomb's [ACCESS Ability Program](#) recognizes that disabilities come in all shapes and sizes, and can include physical, mental, social, and learning disabilities. Reasonable accommodations will be provided to qualified individuals, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and state and local regulations regarding individuals with disabilities. Any accommodation request, however, that is unduly burdensome to the university or fundamentally alters the nature of the service, program, course, or activity cannot be fulfilled. Below is a summary of the ways students may request accommodations through the ACCESS Ability Program.

- **ADA Accommodations for Documented Needs.** We ask any student who has a request for an ADA documented accommodation need to please make your request EARLY to the ACCESS Ability Program by completing the [ACCESS Registration/Intake Form](#) as soon as possible. The earlier you make your request, the more time we all have to work together to achieve a viable solution to adequately address your situation. If you have any questions about ADA accommodations, please email accessability@lipscomb.edu or call 615-966-6021.
- **COVID-19 Specific Accommodation Needs.** The new COVID-19 health and safety protocols at Lipscomb University as well as the CDC guidance regarding people who are at increased risk for COVID-19 complications may present additional accommodation needs for some students who otherwise would not need to request them. These needs include (1) lip reading capabilities related to mask design, (2) documented health

complications due to wearing a mask, and (3) remotely participating in all coursework for the fall semester due to increased vulnerability for contracting the disease. As with ADA recognized accommodations, it is important to make us aware of your need in order to support you. If you have any questions about these COVID-19 specific accommodations, please email accessability@lipscomb.edu or call 615-966-6021.

- **Lip Reading and Mask Wearing Accommodations.** To inform us of your documented needs related to mask wearing, please complete and submit the [Mask Accommodation Registration & Request Form](#) on or before July 24, 2020. This will give us time to evaluate your request for exemption and communicate your needs to faculty.
- **Remote Coursework Accommodations.** Students with conditions or circumstances that increase vulnerability to contracting COVID-19 as determined by the CDC, may desire to request remote study for fall semester 2020. This request would mean that a student will engage in coursework in a virtual environment without attending any classes in person. This request is important and serious as it will mean that the student cannot be on campus due to enhanced likelihood of contracting the virus. For students who need to request this accommodation, please complete and submit the [Remote Coursework Request Form](#) on or before July 24, 2020. If you are granted remote study status, you will not be allowed to change from that status during fall semester. Also, be advised that a limited number of courses (i.e., some science labs) will not be able to be delivered remotely, so schedule changes may be necessary. Please consult with your academic advisor regarding necessary changes to your schedule.

Flexible and Innovative Instructional Options

Lipscomb faculty and staff are making deliberate and intentional plans to offer students convenient and innovative learning options for the Fall 2020 semester. The options are intended to be responsive to both students' needs and faculty needs for remote instruction as we progress through the uncertain and changing COVID-19 environment. Here is a brief summary of the learning options we are putting in place for the Fall 2020 semester

- **LipscombFlex.** During the summer months campus personnel are working to create a unique course delivery model we are calling **LipscombFlex**. LipscombFlex will offer faculty and students a flexible means to adjust the mode of teaching classes that includes both in-person and remote/online learning opportunities. Each classroom is being configured to adhere to recommended physically-distanced seating and is being outfitted with camera technology to fully capture classroom activities for those joining the learning environment remotely. How each class incorporates LipscombFlex will be dependent on the class content, room design, student and faculty safety needs, and learning modality best suited for the topic. LipscombFlex allows for classroom instruction to quickly adapt and respond to changing learning conditions.
- **Lipscomb Online.** Lipscomb Online (LO) is an academic branch of the institution that offers a fully online learning experience for students. All Lipscomb students in the fall can select to enroll in any Lipscomb Online courses that meet their degree requirements.

Although not every course offered in the traditional curriculum is available in LO, many of the LO courses, especially in the general education curriculum, are online exact replicas of the traditional, on ground classes. Students interested in taking LO courses for this fall, please contact Nanci Carter at nanci.carter@lipscomb.edu.

- **Remote Learning Request.** We recognize that some students may not be able to attend classes in person in the fall due to international travel restrictions, personal health issues or health issues of those in their close family members. To meet the educational needs of international and immunocompromised students who are unable to return to campus in the fall semester, we are offering a fully online learning experience. To help with these planning efforts, we need to know your plans for the fall semester. If your situation is such that a fully remote learning environment is needed for the semester, please complete and submit the [Remote Coursework Request Form](#). Please be aware that when students receive approval to study remotely for the semester, this status cannot be changed. Also, some courses may not be able to be offered in a remote setting (i.e. some lab science courses), so schedule changes may be necessary. Students should consult with their academic advisor regarding any needed course schedule changes. If you have questions about this process or the form please email our ACCESS Ability office at accessability@lipscomb.edu. It is our intent to provide courses to the greatest extent possible that allow each Lipscomb student to either begin or continue their educational journey uninterrupted. We ask for your patience as we adapt our courses and course schedules to serve the best interests of all students, domestic and international.

Web Resources

For more detailed information, please visit the [Return to Campus](#) website or email questions to COVIDquestions@lipscomb.edu.

We look forward to serving you and your student this fall! Blessings on your week.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Carroll

Assistant Vice President for Annual Giving and Alumni & Parent Engagement